

Dam Safety E-Newsletter



NJDEP BUREAU OF DAM SAFETY
Climate & Flood Resilience



Spring 2019

National Dam Safety Awareness Day: May 31, 2019

National Dam Safety Awareness Day was created to memorialize the South Fork Dam failure in Johnstown, Pennsylvania that occurred on May 31, 1889. This dam failure was the worst dam-related disaster in the history of the United States where over 2,200 lives were lost. We encourage all dam safety stakeholders to educate themselves on best practices for dam safety by promoting the lessons learned from dam failures. Community outreach is essential and can help either to prevent future catastrophic dam failures or lessen the impacts of a dam failure.

In addition to community outreach and education, Dam Safety Awareness Day also highlights the increasing number of dams that are in need of rehabilitation due to deterioration, changes in land use, and updated design standards. A major challenge facing dam owners is the ever-rising cost of rehabilitation. The Association of State Dam Safety Officials recently posted a report on the staggering cost of dams that are in need of upgrades throughout the nation - [click here for the report](#).

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Newton Lake Dam - Haddon Twp.



Scenic Lake Dam - Vernon Twp.

New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference

The 21st Annual New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference took place at the Tropicana Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey the week of April 29, 2019 and featured multi-disciplinary training seminars, breakout sessions, and networking with emergency response professionals from New Jersey. Engineers from the Bureau of Dam Safety (Bureau) presented during one of the breakout sessions during the conference. The seminar attendees learned about dam terminology, maintenance, operations, failure mechanisms, emergency action planning, recognition and response to dam emergencies, security concerns, and recent case studies about large storm events. The Bureau received excellent feedback from the seminar and plans to participate in the conference again next year to continue to promote dam safety and effective emergency action planning for dams in New Jersey.



NJDEP Take Your Kids to Work Day: April 25, 2019



On April 25th, the New Jersey Bureau of Dam Safety participated in “Take Your Kids to Work Day” with a dam safety program for school aged children. The program consisted of a presentation on dam safety and a model demonstration to show how dams work. The program included a hydropower demonstration in which a waterwheel was used to power a flashlight. The dam model was also used to simulate a hydraulic roller to demonstrate the dangers associated with low head dams. The children then formed into groups and built their own embankment dams using a variety of materials including clay, sand, and soil. This is the Bureau’s 12th year presenting this program and approximately 40 children attended this year’s event.

Public Notifications for Dam Removals

Public notification is required with an application to remove an existing dam in New Jersey. Applicants must provide evidence that all adjoining property owners of the impoundment and the municipality where the dam is located have received notification that an application has been submitted to the Department to remove or breach the dam. Additionally, applicants must publish a notice of the submitted removal application in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the municipality where the reservoir or dam is located and submit proof of publication to the Bureau. In an effort to assist dam owners who wish to remove their dams, the Bureau is currently developing a standard letter template for public notifications for dam removals (soon to be available [here](#)).

Check in soon for a public notification letter template at www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/forms



Dam Removal - Eagleswood Twp.

Dam Safety Loan Appropriation

The NJ State Legislature has recently appropriated funds for 28 dam projects throughout the State. The Department is in the process of coordinating loan agreements with the loan recipients for the design and construction necessary to complete the projects.

The Dam Restoration Loan Program was developed as part of the “Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources, and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003.” The fund, developed pursuant to the bond act, is a revolving fund. Loan repayments are deposited into the fund for future use. Projects to be funded are selected based upon a priority ranking procedure and the amount of monies available at the time. At this time, it is estimated that the Department will be able to open the next application period in Fall 2019. The Notice of Availability of Loan Funds and Application Deadline will be published in the New Jersey Register and on the Bureau of Dam Safety Web Site when available. To learn more about the Dam Restoration Loan Program, please visit the Bureau’s Grants and Loans web site [here](#).

“Since the inception of the Dam Restoration Loan Program, 95 dams have been rehabilitated or removed at a total cost of approximately \$77 million” - NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety

Dam Owners Workshop - "Operation & Maintenance": July 22, 2019

The Bureau of Dam Safety is inviting all New Jersey dam owners to attend a workshop at the College of New Jersey in Ewing Township, NJ on July 22, 2019. Attendees will learn about the importance of regular inspections, proper maintenance for dams, as well as other vital information regarding the New Jersey Dam Safety Program. Further details regarding the workshop will be forthcoming on the Bureau's [website](#).

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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Helpful Dam Safety Links

[Association of State Dam Safety Officials](#)

[Responsible Dam Ownership](#)

[Living With Dams](#)

[FEMA - National Dam Safety Program](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation - Dam Safety Program](#)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)



Visit our website at www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/
